

MILLVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2026

Dr. Rasmus called the Millville Area School District Safety Committee Meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Those present via ZOOM were Joseph Rasmus, Superintendent; Corey Whitmoyer, Board member; Jessica Whitmoyer, Board President; Alex Cavallini, Board member; Heather Mausteller, Board/Committee Member; Whitney Holloway, Business Manager; Danielle Fritz, Director of Student Services; Wendy Faatz, community member; Chief Michael VanDine, community member; Brandon Gordner, Elementary Principal; Officer Brad Sharrow, School Resource Officer; and Chelsea Rosenberger, Board Recording Secretary.

Status Update: School Police Officer (SPO) Program Implementation

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus began the meeting by providing a status update on the implementation of the district's School Police Officer (SPO) model. He shared that the Board previously approved the resolution necessary to establish the district's own law enforcement agency with jurisdiction within the school district. This action was identified as the first major step in implementing the SPO model.
- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reported that the next step is to petition the Columbia County Court. Through consultation with legal counsel, it was clarified that the petition must identify the proposed School Police Officers by name; officers must be appointed first before the court petition is finalized; and any future personnel changes will require amendment through the court process. This clarification adjusted the district's anticipated sequence of implementation.
- ❖ Then, Dr. Rasmus provided an update on discussions with Hemlock Township regarding purchase of a district police vehicle. He shared that a police interceptor vehicle currently used by Hemlock Township has been discussed for district purchase at the proposed price of \$7,500 with an approximate mileage at 115,000 miles. A benefit to this is that the existing law enforcement equipment would remain installed, creating cost savings for the district. Dr. Rasmus said that if the Board is interested, we would take possession of the vehicle shortly after the last student day of school with the vehicle servicing and preparation occurring over the summer. The existing Hemlock Township decals and identifiers would be removed and the Millville School District police markings and logo would be added so that it could be ready for the start of the 2026–2027 school year. He stated that this recommendation would be brought forward to the full Board for consideration.
- ❖ Next, Dr. Rasmus advised the committee that several district policies will need to be updated or created to support operation of the district police force. The areas that would need to be reviewed include the authority of school police officers, the enforcement of school rules, student questioning procedures, arrest procedures, Miranda rights, firearm policies, and incident reporting protocols. He shared that those items were expected to be routed through the Policy Committee and then to the full Board for approval prior to the start of the next school year.

Appointment of School Police Officers

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reported that the SPO position was posted and advertised and that the application window closed at the end of February. He added that the district received several highly qualified applicants, many with extensive careers in law enforcement.

Also, he explained that administration recommended appointing multiple part-time School Police Officers, rather than one full-time officer with substitutes so that the district would be provided with consistent coverage. This would allow staffing flexibility based on officers' existing full-time law enforcement schedules; maintain continuity and relationship-building with students; be more cost-effective, as part-time staffing avoids benefits costs; and provide flexibility for special events, extracurriculars, and board meetings.

- The Committee was amenable to this plan, provided the candidates were also agreeable to those terms.
- ❖ Dr. Rasmus noted that regardless of part-time or full-time status, officers must complete all required training before the start of the school year, including Act 120 training / certification requirements, required school police officer training, and other mandated law enforcement or school-based certifications. He commented that the training logistics, including whether training is completed online, in-district, or off-site, will be determined after officer appointments are finalized.

Selection Process for School Police Officer

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus explained that the administration sought committee guidance regarding the interview and selection process. He shared that they would like to conduct interviews as soon as possible in order to move forward with training, equipment procurement, and court filings.
 - The recommendation was made to hold interviews on Monday, March 9, 2026 with a proposed timeframe of 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
- ❖ Dr. Rasmus then reviewed the format for the interviews. He shared that it would consist of one interview panel rather than multiple rounds with participation by both Board members and administrators, streamlined with a limited number of targeted questions at approximately 30–40 minutes per candidate.
 - The committee expressed support for moving quickly enough that appointments could potentially be considered by the Board at its March 16 meeting, if feasible.

Implementation of SPO's

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus finished by reviewing the key next steps that would follow officer appointments. These would include: petitioning the court with named officers, scheduling required training, procuring uniforms and equipment, acquiring and preparing the district police vehicle, purchasing radios and communication tools, securing firearms storage, purchasing ammunition and body armor, and establishing a records management system. He emphasized that March through August will be the primary implementation window for completing these tasks.
 - Mr. Whitmoyer asked who would oversee officer scheduling and overall coordination, particularly if one officer is unavailable.
 - Dr. Rasmus answered that this issue has already been under discussion and noted that one candidate had indicated willingness to assist in a coordinating or consulting role, depending on the district's ultimate needs. Additionally, he said,

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it was noted that this leadership or coordination question may be better addressed after interviews are completed.

- Mrs. Holloway stated that the scheduling system the district currently utilizes called Frontline could be used for this as well.
- The Committee agreed that the first step is completing interviews and gaining more information before assigning any lead role.
- ❖ Chief Vandine then addressed the committee and confirmed much of the information discussed regarding the establishment of the police department. He noted that the court appointment process was also clarified through his own review and encouraged the district to be prepared for significant upfront implementation costs.
 - Dr. Rasmus thanked Chief VanDine for his continued partnership and guidance throughout the process.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Board Recording Secretary